Ontario

Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST WEEK OF JUNE DECLARED SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS WEEK
McGuinty Government Acting To Prevent Violence Against Women

QUEEN'S PARK – The McGuinty government is declaring the first week of June as Sexual Harassment Awareness Week to increase awareness of sexual harassment and to honour the memories of all women who have been victimized.

"Sexual harassment in our society must not be tolerated," said Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello. "With the declaration of this week, let's all dedicate ourselves to preventing sexual harassment in all areas of Ontarians' lives."

The government is spending over $190 million annually on preventing violence against women and providing supports when violence does occur. This includes more than $82 million in new funding committed under the four-year Domestic Violence Action Plan, which is providing better community-based supports, implementing public education and training strategies, strengthening Ontario's criminal and family justice systems response, and providing better access to French-language services.

This is just one more example of how the McGuinty government and communities have worked together to achieve results in preventing violence against women, including:

- Launching the Equality Rules public education campaign, which teaches youth ages eight to 14 about healthy, equal and respectful relationships to help break the cycle of violence before it starts. For more information, visit www.equalityrules.ca
- Investing in the Neighbours, Friends and Families public education campaign, which provides information to help individuals recognize the signs of abuse and know what action to take. Public service announcements, a website (www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca), brochures, a poster and wallet cards are available as part of the education campaign.

"By working together, we can create a better and safer future for women across the province," said Pupatello. "Women have the right to live free from the fear of violence."

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